

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04561 100819Z
ACTION NEA-10

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 IO-14 /062 W
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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2757
NSC WITE HOUSE PRIORITY

UNCLAS AMMAN 4561

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M: INA, IBS, IPS

E.O.11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY: MOST JORDANIAN DAILIES OF AUG. 9
FRONTPAGED THE NEWS THAT THE PLO MIGHT ACCEPT U.N. RESOLUTION
242 IF AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.
AL-AKHBAR DEVOTED ITS HEADLINES TO THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON BUT PUBLISHED THE PLO DENIAL OF ACCEPTING RESOLUTION
242. DAILIES ALSO CARRIED THE COMPLETION OF THE VANCE TALKS
IN TAIF AND HIS ARRIVAL IN TEL AVIV.

2. IN ITS EDITORIAL, AR-RAI EMPHSIZED THE ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA
IN THE ARAB WORLD AND ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S.
THE PAPER STATES THAT "SAUDI ARABIA IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM AND IS IN LINE WITH THE CONFRONTATION
STATES." THE PAPER ADDED, "ISRAEL HAS EXHAUSTED ITS SLOGANS
JUSTIFYING ITS POLICY... (I.E.)...PROTECTING AMERICAN INTERESTS,
FOSTERING AMERICAN SECURITY..."THE PAPER CONCLUDED THAT SINCE
THINGS ARE MORE CLEAR NOW "IT IS UP TO THE U.S. TO CHOOSE
EITHER THE ARABS INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA OR ISRAEL WITH ITS POLICY
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OF SETTLEMENTS AND EXPANSION CONTRARY TO WORLD OPINION."

3. ASH-SHA'B EDITORIALIZED ABOUT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND STATED
"THERE IS NO USE IN GOING TO THE CONFERENCE IF THE GENERAL
FRAMWORK IS NOT DEFINED AND IF ALL PARTIES DO NOT ANNOUNCE THEIR
COMMITMENT TO U.N. RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WHICH STIPULATE THAT
ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS BE SECURED."

THE PAPER ADDED, "THE ARABS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR COMMITMENT. NOW IT IS UP TO THE U.S. AND ISRAEL TO IMPLEMENT THESE RESOLUTIONS."

5. IN ITS EDITORIAL, AD-DUSTOUR QUESTIONED THE REASONS BEHIND THE NEWS OF A PLO CHANGE REGARDING U.N. RESOLUTIONS 242. THE PAPER ASKED, "IS IT TO TERMINATE PLO POPULARITY IN THE ARAB AND PALESTINIAN PUBLIC OPINION? OR IS IT A TRIAL BALLOON TO MEASURE PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL REGARDLESS OF PLO OR IS IT TO CHECK ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLO AND THE WHOLE ISSUE AFTER ABOLISHING THE OBSTACLES TO GENEVA?" THE PAPER ADDED, "WE WOULD ACCEPT ANY REASON AS LONG AS IT IS NOT MEANT TO OFFER ANOTHER ARAB CONCESSION BEFORE WE KNOW ISRAEL'S POSITION. SO FAR ISRAEL'S POSITION THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS AND THE BOLSTERING OF OCCUPATION SEEMS VERY CLEAR."

5. THE ENGLISH SPEAKING JORDAN TIMES EDITORIALIZED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE PLO ACCEPTANCE OF U.N. RESOLUTION 242. THE PAPER SAID, "BEGIN SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT IN THE FACE OF THIS MOST PROMISING DEVELOPMENT AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL NOT TALK TO THE PLO. HE CLAIMS THAT THERE IS AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. THAT OULD ALLOW ISRAEL TO BAR THE ENTRY OF ANY PARTY OTHER THAN THE ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENEVA TALKS." THE PAPER ADDED, "SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE STRANGE IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECLARATION OF THE WILLINGNESS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH THE ORGANIZATION ONCE IT ACCEPTS RESOLUTION 242." THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO AVOID THE

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PALESTINIAN QUESTION ITS ENTIRETY. THE PAPER ADDE, "IT IS TO THE CREDIT OF THE AMERICANS THAT THEY ARE SHOWING AWARENESS OF THIS FACT, EVEN IF THE ISRAELIS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO BURY THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND."

FOSTER

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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